

A Guide to Songs in Elinor's Town

The songs in Elinor's Town are there to ENGAGE the viewer and to REINFORCE the lessons of each episode.

The song moment should feel natural, and not forced. It should continue the action, not feel like a pause or a digression.

Songs should be CATCHY and REPEATABLE. Focus on short, fun verses. 4-5 syllables per line is a good target. Start with the chorus.

Use the song to repeat the theme or lesson of the episode. What is the one central learning message in the story? Make that the chorus of the song.

Typical spots for a song are moments that need to be condensed:

- Right after Elinor says, "We need MORE OBSERVATIONS!" Something has caught her (and hopefully the viewers') curiosity, so she is excited to explore, observe, or connect things together.
- Once the kids have figured out a problem and they are "putting the solution in motion."

Primarily during special moments of exploration, discovery or implanting a solution.

Songs generally express the joy of exploration, observation or experimentation.

We primarily want our three main kids to sing the songs: All three together, or Elinor paired with either Ari or Hazel only in special circumstances (like Elinor losing her voice in one episode). Elinor can also be solo.

We would like to leave a little door open to have another character sing. For example, a song from Ms. Mole could be fun, or to introduce Mr. Tapir. Overall, we'd say 90% our kids, 10% try another character is a good target.

The lyrics should be simple and childlike, celebrating or describing what the kids are doing or learning and their positive mood about it.

Songs should be 30 seconds long (more like ditties), 45 seconds is ok, no more than 1 minute.

Make it fun!